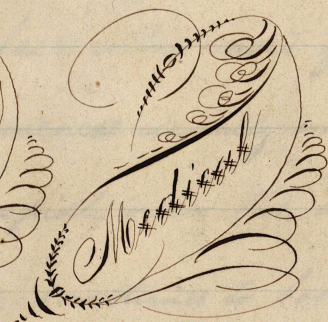




Crysipelas

Respectfully submitted to the Faculty



The Degree of Doctor of Medicine



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Erysipelas is a diffused inflammation of the skin and subcutaneous cellular tissue, affecting a part of the surface of the body, and accompanied by fever. The local inflammation has a special disposition to spread; it is attended with swelling, a pungent, burning, and tingling heat, and by a redness which disappears under pressure with the finger, to return so soon as the pressure is removed.

The face is the most frequent seat of Erysipelas. It commences usually on the side of the nose, and spreads rapidly over the whole of one side of the face, extending sometimes to both. The face is so much swollen by the attack that the features are scarcely recognizable. The cheeks are enlarged, the eyelids tumid and infiltrated, and the lips tumid. The constitutional symptoms accompanying the local disorder are exceedingly severe; there is violent headache, sleepiness, frightful dreams, and commonly delirium. The disease

reaches its height on the fourth or fifth day, and terminates on the seventh or eighth. It frequently accompanied by inflammation of the mucous membrane of the nose and mouth, by a swollen and painful state of the parotid glands, and its resolution is occasionally indicated by a critical hemorrhage from the pituitary membrane. Erysipelas of the face is always serious from the great liability to the occurrence of metastasis or extension to the brain, and it is frequently succeeded by subcutaneous abscesses and diffused suppuration; the latter sequela is most commonly met with in the neck.

Erysipelas of the scalp is usually the consequence of a wound or injury of the head and occurs in about a week or ten days from the reception of the violence. The affected integument is oedematous, smooth, shining, and very sensitive; but the redness is more dull than in other situations.

When left to its-self, erysipelas in this region issues in suppuration and gangrene of the cellular and fibrous tissue of the scalp. it ~~often terminates~~ by metastasis, or rather by extension to the brain. ~~in determining~~

Erysipelas prevails most commonly, in the spring, and autumn, and not unfrequently assumes an epidemic form. The circumstances which cause this malady are very numerous, so I shall only mention a few of the most important. In some instances a peculiar state of the atmosphere exists, which serves to develop this affection in a highly malignant form, in those who are predisposed to its influence. At other times the effluvia arising from those who are suffering from disease, appears to possess contagious qualities, and to be capable of communicating the morbid influence, to those within its reach. Cases of this kind are usually severe, and malignant, attacking the cellular tissue with a low grade of inflammation,

which is almost certain to terminate in gangrene, and sometimes to extend to the brain and lungs.

The habits and constitution of the individual exercise an important influence in determining the character of the disease. So also general debility, or ~~dropical~~ tendency, a scrofulous or scorbutic or any other dyscrasia will be likely to determine a dangerous form of the complaint.

Diagnosis of Erysipelas

Erysipelas is sometimes preceded by general lassitude, depression of spirits, and protracted rigors, followed by accelerated circulation, hot skin, thirst, headache, wandering pain in the back, and limbs, and general restlessness; or it may occur during an attack of Pneumonia, Typhus, Bilious or Gastric fevers, after wounds or other injuries in other parts of the body. Especially of the scalp.

On it may arise suddenly, from violent mental excitement, as terror, joy, anger &c; or it may make its appearance without any premature symptoms, except by chills, followed in a few days by fever.

When the inflammation is confined to the skin, the disease in a mild and simple manner, and the accompanying symptoms will be merely stiff heavy burning, or pungent sensation in the parts affected, impaired appetite, slight febrile disturbance, restlessness at night. The inflammation generally comes out in blotches, which sometimes run together, and after in a few days, are covered with vesicles filled with a limpid or yellowish fluid. These blotches vary from a light red, to a dark red, or purplish color, becoming white under pressure, but assuming their original appearance, when the pressure is removed.

As the disease is subsiding, the color of these spots change to dirty yellow, after which desquamation of the cuticle takes place. When the malady is complicated by gastric or biliary derangement, we may have a grade of high febrile excitement, and the other phenomena which usually attend affections of this kind. In these instances the erysipelatous inflammation is apt to be more violent, and to extend deeper than when no complication exists. The tumefaction is more extensive and deep-seated, the inflammation is more intense, the hardness greater, and the pains more severe, in this variety, than in that first described. It is called by some authors erysipelas phlegmonoides. The most common seat of this phlegmon is in the face, and head, although it occasionally attacks other parts of the body. Another and highly malignant variety of erysipelas, prevails at certain seasons, and attacks, more particularly females after confinement, and individuals who have already been suffering with other diseases. The tumefaction in

these instances is more soft, and spongy than in the pre-
 ceding variety, often pitting on pressure. The skin assum-
 es a pale waxy sallow color, the temperature is sometimes
 above and sometimes below the natural standard. The
 skin of the affected parts, presents a smooth and glossy
 appearance, vesicles containing a limpid or yellowish
 serum are diffused over the swelling, sensations of stiffness,
 weight, and deep seated burning pains are experienced,
 followed if the disease advances, by nausea, vomiting dull-
 ness of the senses, rapid and feeble pulse, or slow & full
 pulse; constant inclination to sleep, and profound
 coma; stentorous respiration; contracted or dilated
 pupils, either partially or wholly insensible to light;
 protrusion of the lips at expirations; frothing at the
 mouth; diminished temperature of the skin;
 livid and inactive appearance of the diseased parts; and
 general and rapid abatement of the energies of
 the system. This form of erysipelas has been termed

erysipelas acutematodes, from the resemblance of the affected part to dropsical swelling.

Therapeutics

Saturday April 1st

I have felt quite well all day, this evening about nine o'clock, I felt a stinging in the left side of my nose, I find whenever I touch the affected side it feels as if stung by a nettle. I have a slight headache. During the night I have not been able to sleep but have had continually troubled dreams

Sunday April 2nd

This morning my nose is inflamed over the effected side. Stinging pains run from the nose to the frontal portion of the head, and temples, and I have stinging in the left side of my face.

This afternoon I found a pimple on the inside of the nostril, thinking it was caused from pulling out

a hair, I gave it but little attention. I took Bell. for the headache, which relieved it for a short time.

Monday April 3rd

I was quite restless during the past night, after retiring, which was at eleven o'clock, my head commenced aching again more severely than during the day; pulse is some increased. This morning my nose is much inflamed; pains shoot one after the other up the nose into the head, the pimple which yesterday was quite small, now fills up almost the entire nostril. I took another dose of Bell. but without any effect. I went out to a meeting last evening but the pains in my head were so severe, I was forced to return home my eye-lids feel heavy. have a feeling stooper all the time, no energy to do any-thing.

Tuesday 4th

I did not rest well last night, I was continually

shifting my position, one position seemed to tire me. This morning my head pains me very much, pains run through to the occiput. The affected side of the nose is so much swollen, as to prevent my breathing through it. I took a dose of Rhus this morning, which relieved the headache for a short time. the pains seems to increase towards evening.

Wednesday April 5th

I slept pretty well after twelve o'clock last night, the boil opening about that time gave immediate relief, the pus discharged was of a greenish color. This morning I took out a core, half the size of a small hickory-nut, which was very tough, and perfectly green. I have had slight head-ache all day, which grew worse towards night, it lasted about the same as last evening, I have taken no medicine to-day.

Thursday April 6th

I slept better last night, than the night pre-

vious. My nose feels much better, the swelling having subsided greatly, I begin to feel I soon will be well. Still the headache does not cease, I also have drowsy, heavy feeling in my head. This afternoon my head commenced aching more severely than it has done before. I have dull aching pains all over my body, general stupor, dull feeling in my head, buzzing in my ears, & high fever. urine is highly colored with a brick-dust sediment. I have taken another dose of Rhin which seems to have little effect

Friday April 7th

I was restless the entire night past, got but little sleep. This morning the left side of my face is swollen, stinging pains shoot through the whole face, up into the head. I have no appetite, feel sick at the stomach. Have high fever, with much thirst, general stupor, urine highly colored. Have taken nothing today

Saturday April 8th

My sleep last night was broken, the swelling seems to have increased, it now being over the entire left side of the face, I feel about the same as yesterday. Have taken another dose of Rhus but receive no relief.

Sunday April 9th

I felt so badly this morning, I called to see Dr Raue. My face is much swollen, I have stinging pain through the whole face, constant head aches pain in my limbs and chest, and great thirst, but can take only a sip of water at a time. Dr Raue proposed Apis, and has very offered his services. I returned home took Apis sixth, and went immediately to bed. This afternoon the pain in my head is very severe, it feels as though it would split open. I have pain in the chest, shooting from the left side below the heart, to the upper two thirds of the sternum; shooting pain in the stomach, and bowels, pain in the limbs, and great thirst. Seem very restless tossing from one side of the bed to the other. The eruption,

and swelling, are creeping over the bridge of the nose, to the right side. The tongue is coated, brown, and feels sticky.

Monday, April 10th

Last night I could not sleep, was restless during the whole night, tossing from one side ~~to~~ the other, it seemed as though the bed was so hard, I could not get any place to lie, but what gave me pain, my whole body ached. This morning both cheeks are swollen, although the stinging has comparatively ceased, the pain in the head still continues, the right cheek is blistered, being dark red, the pain in chest still continues also the pain the stomach and abdomen and pain in limbs, and toes. Dr Kane called continued Aps. I have taken one dose without any relief. the pain has been intense the whole day. Dr Kane not knowing I had taken Rhin he gave me Aps. they being similar, I received no benefit from Aps.

Tuesday April 11th

I rooled and topled the entire night past, I could not sleep.

The head-ache, and pains in the chest are more severe, continued strokes one after another. - Pains shoot from the right side, and meet those from the left. I sigh about every third, or fourth breath, it seems as though I cannot breathe air into the lower part of the lungs without sighing. I have pain in stomach, and addomen, and drawing pain in the back, and testicles, shooting pain in the lower limbs, going down the inside of the leg to the knee, and passing under the knee to the toes. The swelling in the left side of the face begins to subside, the right is still swollen to the ear, the right ear is also swollen.

The swelling, and eruption in the nose is decreasing, having passed up the nose, and is now spread over the whole forehead, and is also extending into the hair.

Dr Kane called, gave Calabar two hundred. Thirst continues, I have drank often but little at a time. Pulse is running from 120 to 130 for the last three days.

Wednesday April 12th

I did not sleep any all night, on account of the pains in my chest, and limbs, was restless all night. This morning the pains are not so severe, the pain in head still continues. At nine o'clock the pain in the chest, stomach abdomen, and limbs almost entirely gone. The sighing still continues the same. Dr Raus called but the Calcaria had acted so well, he deemed it prudent to let it continue its action. The swelling both sides of the face is subsiding rapidly, especially the right side. The right ear is swollen very much, the swelling on the forehead seems to have diminished some little. Towards evening I began to feel the want of sleep, I felt very sleepy but could not rest. I was somewhat delirious, as soon as I closed my eyes. I saw objects flitting before me. During this time I had pain in my head, and burning sensations in my feet.

Thursday April 13th

I did not sleep any last night. The pain in ^{the} chest, and bowels, and also the shooting pains in the limbs, left me at nine o'clock.

this morning, leaving the parts very sore. the swelling is almost gone from my face, though my head is considerably swollen. This afternoon I have a great desire to sleep, but as soon as I get into a doze, I become delirious, and imagine, the gentleman who waits upon me, has put in persons at the foot of the bed, and along my back. who will pull at me, so that when waking, my back and feet pain me very much. Dr Raus gave me Lachesistia thousand. I took it at about eight o'clock, & at 10 o'clock I slept well all night.

Monday April 13th

I slept well all night, feel quite well this morning, with the exception of weakness, and some swelling about the head. The pain in the back is gone, I feel very light-headed. My appetite is returning. Dr Raus called this morning, was much pleased with the improvement. ^{and} He did not call again, and in two days more, I was able to dress myself and walk out.